

## EDITORIALS

# IS THE GESTAPO AT WORK HERE IN MOBILE?

A young white man and a young Negro Man - mutual friends - were arrested one night last week by Mobile police officers. The "crime" involved was that they were walking together in the Roger Williams Homes' project toward the apartment of another friend they had planned visiting.

To the minions of the law who were cruising in a squad car through the project at the moment and saw the two young men together, this was an egregious offense.

It seems that some members of our Police Department who have not been exposed to a friendship between normal human beings of so-called different races with like ideals and culture, cannot conceive of a white person and a Negro person becoming attached to one another with equal regard or esteem.

Evidently because of a very limited social perspective, it was beyond the police officers' comprehension to understand that men of good will are usually devoid of prejudice centering around race or religion.

One does not have to possess a great imaginative potential to realize the extent of abuse and derision to which the two young men were subjected at the time of their arrest and after being docketed at the Police Station.

What charges could be placed against them for exercising their constitutional right to choose their own friends? Police were first stymied as to what accusation could be made against them but finally came up with "disorderly conduct" charges. What they were "disorderly" about still remains a mystery to us and will likewise appear to others who are watching what seems to be a ridiculous effort in this instance to coerce, intimidate and brainwash our young people into surrendering their heritage to a racist philosophy.

Gestapo-like police tactics should be resisted in protests to our City Commission and the Chief of Police.

Fortunately for Mobile, men with rational minds control our city and Police Department. We believe they will do their utmost to prevent Mobile from becoming a cesspool of venom and hate to ruin its fair name.

Other cities where reckless racial policies prevail are creating an unfavorable impression for our country throughout the world.

## Police "Shakedowns" May Be In Order To Curb Crime

The city of Pensacola has adopted a curfew ordinance which draws a time deadline of 11 o'clock at night for all youths of that community under 17 years of age, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Pensacola's Police Chief Crosby Hall has warned parents that the law will be enforced - and that they (the parents) will be arrested if any child who violates the ordinance should be caught on city streets after 11 P.M., if not accompanied by an adult as prescribed by the law.

Mobile should carefully study the Pensacola experiment in an effort to determine the extent of its success. If the curfew ordinance should reduce juvenile delinquency in the Florida city, we would be optimistic about the effect of a similar law here.

We believe that in many instances the patterns of behavior acquired by teen-agers in the age brackets of 12 to 16, may serve as a barometer as to the kind of men and women of tomorrow they will be.

Persistent rumors link the Negro community here with dope "pushers," switch blade experts and pistol toters. Those of us who wish to have the mantle of leadership put around our shoulders should do something in a tangible way to meet this challenge - and at the same time prove that we are worthy of the laurels we seek.

Guarded information made available to us indicates that the "pusher" traffic exists in the Negro community almost with impunity. We have what has been described as more than our "share" of victims, who usually begin the tragic era of narcotic addiction by smoking "the weed" (marijuana or marihuana).

The peddlers, we have been told, are usually those who may be classified as youths and young men.

They also provide the Nation with the largest ratio of crime makers, involving homicides, manslaughter, and the like, which means they are the folks who more often may be found to carry the "blade" (the switch-blade knife) and the "gat" (the pistol).

These two lethal weapons have taken a heavy toll of life among Negroes - here in Mobile and elsewhere throughout the Nation. This stigma is one in the facets of indictments which give those opposed to the breaking down of segregation barriers a strong argument in defense of the status quo.

This problem is not going to be curbed by the present approach; it demands stern action from all of us.

Civic groups should have the public realize the danger involved in the dope traffic and the carrying of concealed weapons of any kind by those who are evidently "looking for trouble."

We should insist that city officials launch an extensive and vigorous campaign against the evils which bring dope addiction and high homicide rate to our community.

Mobile needs an ordinance outlawing the selling of switch blade knives and police "shakedowns" should be ordered, as probable effective steps to mitigate this problem.

## CONVICTIONS IN FLORIDA RAPE CASE REPRESENT NEW PATTERN OF JUSTICE IN DEEP SOUTH

In what we feel to be a realistic appraisal of the conviction with mercy verdict of an all-white Florida jury in connection with the rape of a Negro college co-ed by four white men, it is our opinion that a satisfactory judgement of punishment was rendered with the life sentence imposed on each Monday by Judge W. May Walker.

We sincerely hope that these white men will not be permitted to escape serving the actual life terms by technicalities which would permit them to go free after staying in prison only a short period of time.

The utilization of this form of strategy would again reflect a system of white-black justice which has set a mockery pattern for our professed belief of rectitude.

It is certainly rather significant that in Florida court annals only two white men convicted of raping Negro girls and women have been imprisoned for periods consistent with the nature of the crime committed. One was sentenced to life the other was sent up for 15 years.

In contrast, 37 Negroes have already died in the electric chair at the Raiford prison for rape during the past 25 years. Practically all died for allegedly attacking white women.

It is reasonable to assume that some of these men were convicted on weak circumstantial evidence tainted by race, passion.

Only one white man has died in the Florida death chair for rape - and that was in connection with an offense against a nine-year old white child.

No white man has had to pay with his life in Florida for raping a Negro child or woman.

We are by no means satisfied to see Negroes go to the electric chair on alleged rape charges, while Dixie justice invariably fails to mete out equal punishment to white rapists who violate the bodies of Negro women.

But we agree with that segment of thinking which sees the conviction of the four whites who raped the 19-year old girl, as a long step toward equal justice of the races in the courts.

We are not unmindful that nationwide and international attention focused on the case might have had something to do with the outcome.

Nevertheless, we laud the courage of the prosecution for its vigorous and unbiased demands for conviction - and we believe this result was achieved primarily because State Atty. William D. Hopkins would not let the race question sway him in the performance of his duty.

The prompt trial apparent fairness of the judge - a vigorous prosecution - and conviction - represent, in our opinion, a new pattern of justice in the Deep South.

# ARE NEGRO SHIPYARD WORKERS LOSING OUT IN MOBILE?

The plight of the Negro shipyard worker here was called to the attention of John J. Grogan, international president of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, when he was here last week. Mr. Grogan who spoke to the shipyard workers at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Co., Saturday, was guest of Local 18 of his union.

Local 18 represents the shipyard workers at the ADDSCO plant.

In a telegram to the IUMSWA president, the Alabama Civic Affairs Ass'n., complained of "a protracted but constant decline in the number of Negro workers" employed at the shipyard here where his union is the bargaining agency.

The civic affairs ass'n., said the decline was not consistent with the shipyard's total labor force, and that the situation was being viewed with apprehension by sources attempting a careful study of the problem.

The protest also contended that the trend of what was described as job discrimination would bring about "the almost complete elimination of Negro workers at this shipyard within 20 years, unless prompt action is taken to correct what appears to be policy of employment distinction based on race or color.

The civic group charges that in 1943 more than 38 per cent of the more than 40,000 workers then employed in shipbuilding and ship repair here were Negroes, and that today less than 24 per cent of the active shipyard labor force of several thousand are of the Negro group.

Many Negro shipyard workers accuse Local 18 of doing nothing tangible to assure equitable job opportunities for its Negro members and, as a consequence, few, if any, Negroes are able to get jobs unless they had been previously employed at the shipyard.

The charges are of a grave nature and we feel are deserving of a thorough investigation to determine the truth of the matter.

If the IUMSWA actually believes in the principles of fairness and an equality of opportunity in employment, we are hopeful that it will take steps to clear up the situation here in Mobile and wherever else there is justifiable suspicion of job discrimination in shipyards where this organization represents the workers.



# Politicians Must Be Curbed In Using Negro As Whipping Boy

One of the cheapest and most degraded forms of skulduggery is the use of the race question or a religious issue by political demagogues seeking public office, as a springboard to election.

We deplore the injection of race or religious prejudice against an individual for any purpose whatever, let alone against an entire group of people representing a segment of the Nation's citizenry.

It sums up as poor Americanism, and the hate peddler himself is devoid of the principles which make great men or statesmen. This is true regardless of how important he may feel he is or the kind of office he may unfortunately hold, for there are axioms or recognized truths which govern the lives of all men. And we say "unfortunately" hold because such a person is a political charlatan and disgraces a public trust by inveigling with bitterness countless thousands of misguided and confused minds.

Political hate hawkers thrive on their preachments against Negroes - a favorite pastime in the Deep South. The colored group has been the victim of insults, half-truths, untruths and unvarnished pernicious lies, by ambitious but usually base politicians. These men feel that they need know nothing about the fundamental principles of being governor of a state, or a U. S. Senator, or a supreme court judge, and the like, to get elected - as long as they know the technique of preaching hatred against Negroes and pledge to keep this group in its "place." This, of course, means to damn the Negro forever and ever to a second class citizenship status.

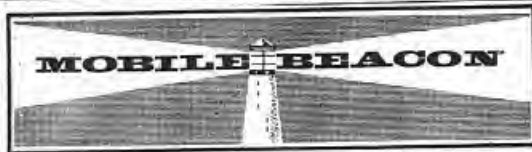
The radio and TV stations are two of the main sources of dissemination of the base political diatribes against Negro citizens or the Negro people.

Perhaps a deluge of protests to the Federal Communications Commission and demands upon Congress for new and effective laws to deal with this racial or religious hate peddling abuse by politicians would afford part of the answer.

A sensible program must be developed to curb the aspirations of little men to use the Negro or anyone else as a whipping boy in their quest for power and glory.

# WHITE EX-CON GETS LIFE FOR RAPE OF NEGRO GIRL

## Fla. Handyman Free In Murder Of White



6th Year Mobile, Alabama Saturday, July 25, 1959 4th Edition 104



**MEN'S DAY GROUP RENDERS PROGRAM AT NEW LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH....** Members of the Interdenominational Men's Days rendered a very inspiring Men's Day Service at the New Light Baptist Church Sunday. The group, led by Prince A. Rogers of Prichard features a very talented men's choral group and a number of accomplished speakers. (Photo by Carrie E. White)

### FAUBUS "TAKES" ALA LEGION CONVENTION

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. - The alleged fascist-like trend of the national office of the American Legion and a number of state groups was given impetus this week with the address of Arkansas' Gov. Orval F. Faubus, who was invited to speak Monday night at the four-day Alabama convention of the organization.

Faubus was recently "honored" by the national American Legion, which was in turn strongly criticized by the Massachusetts American Legion convention for the action.

The Arkansas governor, as one of the highlight speakers of the Alabama American Legion convention, was introduced Monday night by Alabama's Gov. John Patterson, also regarded as one of the Dixiecrat cliques' dedicated to use repressive measures against Negroes.

Patterson described Faubus as "one symbol of resistance to the tyranny of the federal government."

Faubus, in reply, looked out at the U. S. Supreme Court for its historic school desegregation decision of 1954. He said the

"niggers don't or jeopardized some of the constitutional amendments making up the Bill of Rights...."

He accused the court of "making laws" and gave what appears to be a confused interpretation of the power or authority judicial branch of the government on the question of human rights.

The Arkansas governor continued, "And there is no federal law, except made by the court, saying there shall be no segregated schools." He was careful to avoid mentioning section 1, of the 14th Amendment, which reads in part that "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Faubus asserted that only the Congress or the state legislatures are empowered to make laws, "and the courts have no

### LOCAL GIRL SUCCUMBS HERE

IN TUSCALOOSA  
Lillie Davis, age 17 died July 19, at 3:30 P.M. at the Druid City Hospital. Her death was caused by a spell which she was suffering from since childhood.

She is survived by one son, Lester L. Davis, a mother, Aurelie Clement, a grandmother, Jante Davis, and one brother, Tommie L. Davis.

### Police Watch Scenes Of School Registration At Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. - Police kept a watchful eye on the scenes as public school registration began Tuesday at previously all-white Hall High, Technical High and 1957-Integrated Central High and all-Negro Horace Mann High schools.

Five Negro students - and a girl on crutches - registered at Central High as the checker board moves between a focus of law and order and segregationists, led by Arkansas' Gov. Orval Faubus, continued the battle of strategy for better or worse in Little Rock's tragic school situation brought on by declared racism determined to defy the courts and a democratic way of life.

Four of the Negro students were among the nine in the 1957-58 school year who braved the fury of mobs, hostile white classmates and other adverse conditions to attend the previously all-white Central High School and make history around the world. Federal troops dispatched to Little Rock because of the school crisis finally restored order in that city.

None of the four Negro students who formerly attended Central High came themselves. They were represented by their parents. However, Gloria Carr 19, the crippled girl came in the afternoon and registered.

### ALL-WHITE JURY GIVES CAROLINA MAN LIFE

RALEIGH, N. C. (SNE) - A white ex-convict was convicted by an all-white Wake County jury Thursday for the rape of an 11-year-old Negro girl. The jury recommended mercy which automatically carries a mandatory life sentence.

The verdict was rendered against Ralph Lee Betts, 36, less than two weeks after a white marine, Fred G. Davis, of Atlanta, was sentenced to the electric chair for raping a 47-year-old Beaufort, S. C. Negro woman.

The courtroom audience that witnesses the life sentence lodged against Betts was approximately one-half Negro. Reports indicated that Betts showed little emotion as the sentence was passed upon him by Judge Malcolm Paul.

### PENSACOLA MAN FREED IN MURDER DEATH OF EMPLOYEE

PENSACOLA, FLA. - Justice was reflected minus an indication of race prejudice here last week when a Negro handyman was acquitted by an all-white jury in 45 minutes in the alleged murder of his former white employer.

Raymond Nash, 29, was declared not guilty of a charge of murder in the fatal shooting of 52-year-old Maurice Finman, owner of rug and shade stores in Pensacola and Jacksonville, on the night of Jan. 3 this year.

Nash, who had been in jail without benefit of bail or bond since the night of Finman's death, faintly smiled when the verdict was read last Friday night.

The colored man testified that on the night of the slaying he was seated with Finman in the latter's car in a deserted waterfront area when two white men drove up and pumped the fatal pistol slugs into his (Finman's) body.

Nash said that he and Finman had agreed earlier to meet that night to talk about certain matters. He declared that the two of them had a conversation about "the manager's wife and police officers but did not elaborate."

Defense Atty. Forryth Carr told the jury the state had introduced no evidence that proved Nash was guilty. State Atty. Ed Wicks contended the colored man was guilty of first degree murder, but he did not specifically demand the death penalty. The murder case was heard before Circuit Judge Harold Crosby.

### EARLY MORNING BLAZE DAMAGES HOUSE

IN TUSCALOOSA

By Mrs. Anna Rice  
Fire that started Monday morning at 4:30 A.M., struck a wood stove. A fire caused heavy damage at a two apartment house at 1906-22nd Ave.

The fire started in the apartment occupied by Roosevelt Kinty. The fire spreaded to the attic of the second apartment and car the end of the second occupied by Mrs. Enns, 1904-22nd Ave.

Drive Carefully  
Save A Life

# Let's Take A Self-Inventory

We are not proud of certain patterns of behavior which are quite obvious in the Negro community.

In attempting an analysis of the complexities in race relations, we cannot always truthfully contend that the spurious and rather ridiculous issue of color almost invariably used by the rabid Negrophobes is the only point of controversy that may be raised against us.

A realistic appraisal of some of our shortcomings will reveal that many of us make ourselves obnoxious by our failure to adhere to lofty standards of community living. This is not to imply that one has to be wealthy, have a Harvard University academic background or be a member of the Black Bourgeoisie.

It does men, however, that one must realize the importance of maintaining a respectable position in the community in which he lives, with a full acceptance of the responsibilities of his heritage.

Too many of us disregard these cardinal principles. A large segment does not vote, will not read seriously, and gives little or no time in support of movements advocating progress in community life.

We are beset with the iniquities of the underprivileged who have been circumscribed by ghetto-like living conditions. We are loud and boisterous, and many of us do not keep our bodies clean, wear soiled clothes with offensive odors, neglect our children in a hundred ways, including that of an unwashed brow and an unkempt head of hair, and pave the way otherwise for a high juvenile delinquency rate.

Likewise we congregate on the "Avenue" at the honky-tonks and other notorious joints with our "blade" in pocket, and sputter from a vocabulary of degraded and shocking profanity.

We are inclined to act the part of buffoons, discuss ostentatiously our business and other folks' as well on the city buses, and go on the streets and to town improperly attired.

Our failure to manifest emotional restraint has resulted in a high homicide rate, numerous affrays and other incidents which have retarded our struggle for first class citizenship.

In the face of these realities the Negro leadership fails in its duty to the people and the community when it remains smug and shows an apathetic attitude toward this challenge of the times.

These are factors that are hurting our civil rights fight for full equality under the law.

Let's take a self-inventory.

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# "The Way Of Life"

## In Our Southland

A Mobile Negro youth was denied enlistment in the Alabama National Guard last week apparently for no other reason than the color of his skin. This youngster is a recent high school graduate and is intelligent, and quiet and sober in his habits.

We believe he would be an asset to the National Guard, to his state and his country, if he were permitted to enlist as a guardsman.

Several other Negro youths, anxious to learn trades which would better equip them to earn a decent livelihood, become better citizens, and to fit in the nation's defense program, have been denied the right to enroll as students at the State Vocational School on Fulton Road.

These two deplorable examples of racism along with the numerous instances of discrimination against Negroes in other facets of public service and facilities, were created by tragic souls who are possessed with a dangerously morbid mental condition on the race question. They feel they are acting the role of heroes in raving, beating their breasts and shouting their defense of segregation as "a way of life."

In truth, they are pathetic creatures, just like their misguided followers, who would "swear to the death" for the evil cause of race hate and all it stands for which they espouse.

These people are certainly showing that they are not good Americans nor dedicated to the principles of the Christian faith, for hating some one who has done them no wrong. They are also jeopardizing the national defense and security of our country by denying to any citizen the right to furnish his maximum potential of service or productivity to the safeguarding of our bulwarks as a nation.

Their determination to deprive Negroes of their basic rights as citizens is comparable to activities of the Fifth Columnists during World War II.

They attempt to defend the evil system of segregation with the spurious cry of "mongrelization", despite the fact that the debauchery of Negro womanhood by white men has been a favorite pastime in the South for the past 300 years.

Today an estimated 90 per cent of the Negro population has white blood in its veins - and the "favorite pastime" is still going strong. This paradoxical situation is the "way of life" in our beloved Southland.



# EDITORIALS

# COMMENTS



THEIR GRIP CAN BE BROKEN, WITH EFFECTIVE CIVIL RIGHTS  
LEGISLATION



# SEGREGATION STILL AT BROOKLEY

A complaint filed by the Alabama Civic Affairs Association a few days ago against the alleged waiting room segregation of Negro employees at the Brookley Air Force Base motor pool, throws light on the continued existence of the jim crow evil at military installations in the Deep South.

We suspect that an extensive investigation would not only uncover additional segregation at the Brookley Air Force Base - but correlated contingencies as well, such as job discrimination and denial of an adequate number of supervisory positions to qualified Negroes.

The Brookley Air Force Base situation, we believe, is no different than the patterns which probably may be found elsewhere in the federal services. Race prejudice is a hydra-headed monster which cannot be destroyed by wishful thinking and apathetic attitude upon our part.

We must be ever vigilant against segregation in any form discovered, and this iniquity was born from the womb of race prejudice, and because a man happens to hold a high position with the federal government does not necessarily mean that he has surrendered his perverted thinking with regard to human rights.

Racists in the federal services may be expected to continue finding ways and means of imposing a second class citizenship status upon Negroes, as long as Negroes themselves do not show a strong resistance to their insults.

At the same time, we can ill-afford to overlook the fact that we must maintain our self-respect in community life - on the job - in the public or anywhere else - and prove to the world that we are worthy of the laurels of first class citizenship which we seek.